

This violence, combined with the government response to it, has killed over 1,700 civilians in Cabo Delgado Province alone.

The international community, particularly the Southern African Development Community forces and Rwanda's forces, have responded with troop deployment to secure areas and shield civilians from continued violence. But let's be clear. We know that a military-led response will not be enough.

That is why I was so supportive of the Biden administration's recent designation of Mozambique as a priority country under the Global Fragility Act, so that we can better align resources among the interagency and work to address the key drivers of this violence and other forms of instability in the country.

And as we craft our strategy for Mozambique, we must be clear-eyed about the underlying grievance and what it will really take to make a difference in preventing new violence from occurring. We know that terrorism and violent extremism are also fueled by perceptions of state repression, human rights abuses, and socioeconomic and political marginalization. We know that these factors exist in Mozambique and in the state response to ISIS-Mozambique. We need to be honest about the challenges impacting the Mozambican people in order to get serious about preventing future terrorist recruitment.

We also need to ensure that we are helping the Mozambican Government support development goals of Cabo Delgado and northern Mozambique that will allow all sectors of society to thrive.

That is why I am looking forward to the United States' partnership with the Mozambique Government and the Mozambican people and to ensuring our strategy is shaped by lessons learned from our counterterrorism missions across the world that have consistently fallen short.

This resolution has strong support from across the ideological spectrum. I am proud to lead the passage of this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1630

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This resolution condemns the terrorist attacks and ISIS insurgency in northern Mozambique and urges the administration to prioritize efforts to address this threat.

I am pleased that the administration selected Mozambique as a priority country to implement a 10-year strategy for U.S. diplomatic, development, and security engagement. This type of long-term interagency planning is critically important to coordinating U.S. efforts and ensuring the most effective use of resources to target the root causes of the instability and terrorism. This issue cannot wait, and the

administration must implement the requirements of the Global Fragility Act without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist activity that has destabilized parts of northern Mozambique is a symptom of a larger issue at hand. The United States is working closely with the Mozambican Government to help address the drivers of terrorist recruitment by supporting governance reforms, providing humanitarian assistance, and promoting other stabilization efforts in the country.

This resolution underscores that commitment and urges the Mozambican Government to create a centralized and comprehensive strategy to counter violent extremism and restore security in its northern region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JACOBS for her leadership on this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to join us by voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORRES of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 720.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE EXECUTION-STYLE MURDERS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS YLLI, AGRON, AND MEHMET BYTYQI IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA IN JULY 1999

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 45) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the execution-style murders of United States citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi in the Republic of Serbia in July 1999.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 45

Whereas brothers Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi were citizens of the United States, born in Chicago, Illinois, to ethnic Albanian parents from what is today the Republic of Kosovo, and who subsequently lived in Hampton Bays, New York;

Whereas the three Bytyqi brothers responded to the brutality of the conflict asso-

ciated with Kosovo's separation from the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of which Serbia was a constituent republic by joining the so-called "Atlantic Brigade" of the Kosovo Liberation Army in April 1999;

Whereas a Military-Technical Agreement between the Government of Yugoslavia and the North Atlantic Council came into effect on June 10, 1999, leading to a cessation of hostilities;

Whereas the Bytyqi brothers were arrested on June 23, 1999, by Serbian police within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia when the brothers accidentally crossed what was then an unmarked administrative border while escorting an ethnic Romani family who had been neighbors to safety outside Kosovo;

Whereas the Bytyqi brothers were jailed for 15 days for illegal entry into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Prokuplje, Serbia, until a judge ordered their release on July 8, 1999;

Whereas, instead of being released, the Bytyqi brothers were taken by a special operations unit of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs to a training facility near Petrovo Selo, Serbia, where all three were executed;

Whereas, at the time of their murders, Ylli was 25, Agron was 23, and Mehmet was 21 years of age;

Whereas Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was removed from office on October 5, 2000, following massive demonstrations protesting his refusal to acknowledge and accept election results the month before;

Whereas, in the following years, the political leadership of Serbia has worked to strengthen democratic institutions, to develop stronger adherence to the rule of law, and to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia evolved into a State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in February 2003, which itself dissolved when both republics proclaimed their respective independence in June 2006;

Whereas the United States Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, was informed on July 17, 2001, that the bodies of Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi were found with their hands bound and gunshot wounds to the back of their heads, buried atop an earlier mass grave of approximately 70 bodies of murdered civilians from Kosovo;

Whereas Serbian authorities subsequently investigated but never charged those individuals who were part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs chain of command related to this crime, including former Minister of Internal Affairs Vlastimir Djordjevic, Assistant Minister and Chief of the Public Security Department Vlastimir Djordjevic, and special operations training camp commander Goran "Guri" Radosavljevic;

Whereas Vlastimir Djordjevic died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in April 2002 prior to being transferred to the custody of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia where he had been charged with crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war during the Kosovo conflict;

Whereas Vlastimir Djordjevic was arrested and transferred to the custody of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in June 2007, and sentenced in February 2011 to 27 years imprisonment (later reduced to 18 years) for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war committed during the Kosovo conflict;

Whereas Goran "Guri" Radosavljevic is reported to reside in Serbia, working as director of a security consulting firm in Belgrade, and is a prominent member of the governing political party;

Whereas the Secretary of State designated Goran Radosavljevic of Serbia under section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018 as ineligible for entry into the United States due to his involvement in gross violations of human rights;

Whereas two Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs officers, Sretan Popovic and Milos Stojanovic, were charged in 2006 for crimes associated with their involvement in the detention and transport of the Bytyqi brothers from Prokuplje to Petrovo Selo, but acquitted in May 2012 with an appeals court confirming the verdict in March 2013;

Whereas the Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic promised several high ranking United States officials to deliver justice in the cases of the deaths of Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi;

Whereas no individual has ever been found guilty for the murders of Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi or of any other crimes associated with their deaths; and

Whereas no individual is currently facing criminal charges regarding the murder of the Bytyqi brothers despite many promises by Serbian officials to resolve the case: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) those individuals responsible for the murders in July 1999 of United States citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi in Serbia should be brought to justice;

(2) it is reprehensible that no individual has ever been found guilty for executing the Bytyqi brothers, or of any other crimes associated with their deaths, and that no individual is even facing charges for these horrible crimes;

(3) the Government of Serbia and its relevant ministries and offices, including the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor's Office, should make it a priority to investigate and prosecute as soon as possible those current or former officials believed to be responsible for their deaths, directly or indirectly;

(4) the United States should devote sufficient resources to fully assist and properly monitor efforts by the Government of Serbia and its relevant ministries and offices to investigate and prosecute as soon as possible those individuals believed to be responsible for their deaths, directly or indirectly; and

(5) progress in resolving this case, or the lack thereof, should remain a significant factor determining the further development of relations between the United States and the Republic of Serbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 45.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 45, a resolution condemning the execution-style murders of the U.S.

citizen Bytyqi brothers in the Republic of Serbia in July 1999.

Let me start by thanking Representative LEE ZELDIN for his bipartisan work in bringing their murderers to justice.

These three brave brothers, whose family hails from what is now Kosovo, were simply trying to help a Romanian family find safety outside Kosovo when they were trapped at an unmarked administrative border. After 15 days of jail, the brothers were taken by a special operations unit of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, where they lost their lives at the hands of Serbian officials.

The brothers were in their early twenties. Their bodies were not found until 2 years later, buried atop a mass grave of Kosovo civilians. In the 23 years since, the United States has been promised that justice will be delivered, yet not one person has been found guilty of their murder.

This measure would call on the Serbian Government to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of their murders, and on the United States to devote the resources necessary to assist in bringing them to justice.

The 116th Congress passed this resolution, and it is my hope that this Congress does the same. These three young men deserve justice and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 45. I thank Representative ZELDIN for championing this important resolution.

As the world focuses on the horrors of the war crimes being committed by Vladimir Putin's invading forces in Ukraine, we must not forget the victims of the past war crimes still awaiting justice.

Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi were three American brothers from New York State who are suspected of having been killed in July 1999 by Serbian authorities. After disappearing while in the custody of Serbian special police, they were executed, shot in the head with their hands tied behind their backs. Their bodies were later discovered in a mass grave at a training compound of the Serbian secret police.

Tragically, nearly 23 years later, there has still not been a full investigation into their deaths, and the Bytyqi brothers' murderers have yet to be brought to justice. This is unacceptable.

This case, among others, illustrates the continued need for Serbia to resolve outstanding war crimes investigations. Holding accountable those who committed and covered up the murder of the Bytyqi brothers is critical to continuing bilateral relations between the United States and Belgrade.

Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolu-

tion. Congress must be on the record calling on Serbian authorities to once and for all deliver justice for the Bytyqi brothers and their family.

Mr. Speaker, 23 years is too long for the Bytyqi brothers and their family to go without justice.

Seriously dealing with the past and bringing justice to all victims of war crimes committed in the wars that followed the breakup of the former Yugoslavia is needed to ensure reconciliation and peace throughout the region.

Mr. ZELDIN reintroduced this bipartisan resolution last year. I urge Belgrade to commit to a proper investigation and full accountability for these three Americans so this resolution does not have to be reintroduced once again next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 45 will ensure that the United States is doing everything in our power to bring the murderers of United States citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEE ZELDIN for his leadership on this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join us by voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 45.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO RELEASE PAUL RUSESABAGINA ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 892) calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 892

Whereas, in August 2020, Rwandan political activist Paul Rusesabagina, a United States lawful permanent resident and a Presidential Medal of Freedom Honoree, was extrajudicially transferred from Texas to Kigali, Rwanda, by way of the United Arab